

February 9, 2011

SB116: Prohibit aid in dying

Introduced by: G. Hinkle

The last two WHEREAS clauses refer to suicide and aid in dying to be against public policy and in Section 1 (3) that it "is against public policy for a victim to consent to the victim's own homicide". Where is these public policies documented?

I don't know how, or where, the State presumes to have authority over how an individual chooses to live or not to live the last days of their life...as long as they are not a danger to anyone else.

If a person with a terminal illness chooses to end their suffering and spare their family the emotional and financial trauma, it should be their right to do so.

A person who is determined to end their life will do so, with or without assistance. This was brought home to me two years ago. It is more humane and less traumatic for everyone involved if it is done with forethought, under medical supervision and in a controlled environment, rather than by hanging, shooting, or poisoning oneself.

How is assisted suicide really any different than wishes contained in a living will or a do not resuscitate (DNR) order where life sustaining treatment can be withheld?

People routinely put animals out of their misery when they are sick or injured beyond the point of recovery. Why in the world would we not do the same for our own kind?

Denying someone the right to die peacefully when they are in pain is inhumane and cruel. Keeping a terminally ill person alive for a few more hours, days, or weeks with drugs, machines, and radical procedures is nothing more than medical experimentation that add nothing to the person's quality of life or dignity and doesn't change the ultimate outcome.

I urge the committee to allow a person to choose to die with dignity and vote no on this bill.

Thank you,

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SENATE JOURNAL
JANUARY 10, 18
PAGE 219/11
SB 116